

Date: June 15, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
From: Karmisha R. Wallace, Senior Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Appointment of Civilian Police Review Board Members

Executive Summary

The Civilian Police Review Board ("Board") is comprised of nine members, four of whom were previously appointed by the City Manager. In November 2014, the City Council concurred with the City Manager's recommendation to have the Manager's appointments to the Civilian Police Review Board confirmed by the City Council. This change in process was memorialized in the Civilian Police Review Board Procedure Manual. With the new process in place, the City Council confirmed the City Manager's five appointees during its March 16, 2015 regular meeting. The Board currently has four vacancies as a result of term expirations. The City Council is being asked to confirm the four individuals being recommended by the City Manager.

Recommendation

That the City Manager's four appointments to the Civilian Police Review Board be confirmed.

Background

The Civilian Police Review Board was established in 1998 to serve in an advisory capacity to the City Manager. The Board is comprised of nine individuals who must all:

- be at least 21 years old
- reside in corporate City limits consistently for three years prior to appointment
- be current on local property taxes at the time of application and throughout term
- not have A1, 1, 2 misdemeanor or felony convictions

Background checks are performed on appointees. Civilian Police Review Board members are required to maintain strict confidentiality and:

- complete the Durham Citizen Police Academy;
- complete training/orientation on legal issues surrounding arrest, search and investigation in North Carolina (provided by staff from the City Attorney's Office and Durham Police Department); and
- complete 16 hours of a "Ride Along"

Civilian Police Review Board members serve four-year terms and are compensated at a rate of \$25 per meeting. The Board meets at least once per quarter.

Issues and Analysis

The Board's mandate is to determine whether the Professional Standards Division of the Durham Police Department investigated a complaint in an appropriate manner; specifically, whether the Police Department abused its discretion in the conduct of the investigation. As prescribed in State law, Board members have access to investigation-related information; therefore, it is imperative that members remain impartial and maintain strict confidentiality.

The Board serves in an advisory capacity to the City Manager by providing feedback and recommendations on any observations made in their review of cases. The Board will continue to assist with community-police relations by hosting community forums and presenting information on the Civilian Police Review Board at PAC and neighborhood meetings.

There are currently four vacancies on the Civilian Police Review Board which resulted from term expirations. Vacancies were advertised by the City Clerk's Office and six (6) applications were forwarded to the City Manager for consideration. All six (6) applicants were interviewed and the following individuals are being recommended for appointment to the Board:

NAME	RACE	GENDER	PAC
Jeffrey S. Clark	African American	Male	3
Stephen E. Kraus*	Caucasian	Male	4
DeWarren K. Langley*	African American	Male	3
Cynthia L. Wells*	Caucasian	Female	2

("*" denotes individuals who have previously served on the Civilian Police Review Board)

The current Civilian Police Review Board members' terms expire on June 30, 2018:

NAME	RACE	GENDER	PAC
Kelli Dugan	Caucasian	Female	3
Rachel Green	African American	Female	1
David Harris	African American	Male	2
David Smith	Caucasian	Male	3
Susan Veasey	Caucasian	Female	3

Alternatives

The City Council could elect not to confirm the four and/or all of the individuals being recommended by the City Manager. If that decision is made, the City Manager would interview additional applicants for consideration and make subsequent recommendations.

Financial Impact

The confirmation of Civilian Police Review Board members does not have a financial impact on the City. Board members are compensated at a rate of \$25.00 for each regular meeting attended. Payments are made twice a year.

SDBE Summary

Not Applicable

Attachments

Civilian Police Review Board Applications